

As discussed in the Remarks of the August 14 Amendment, Martino or Biber, individually or in combination does not disclose the subject matter of claims 1-27.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Martino and Biber, individually or in combination, is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks of the August 14, 2000 Amendment, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 - 27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 26, 2001

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